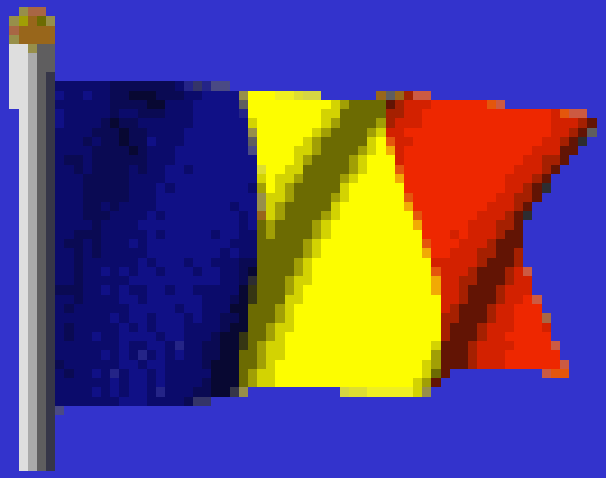
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



ROMANIA

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Romania

Capital: Bucharest

Population: 22,334,312 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Radu Vasile

Official language(s) Romanian

Economy: Transitioning capitalist

Religions: Romanian Orthodox (70%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

INFORMATION

International Airport: Otopeni-Bucharest

Flights from Frankfurt: Tarom, Lufthansa

Other methods of arrival: Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: Strada Tudor Arghezi 7-9, Bucharest TEL 40-1-210-4042/0149/6384 Fax NNA

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Driving, especially after dark, can be hazardous. Roads are generally narrow, badly lit, and in poor repair. Roads often are used by pedestrians and animals as well as vehicles. Road travel can

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: U.S. Passport. For official travel, a no-fee passport is required. Romania is designated a Special Area by DoS. Official travel requires approval from DoS. Country Clearance is required. All official visitors must register with the American Embassy. Visas are required for all travel over 30 days. Visas are available at airports or ports of entry for $31. Visa applications require one application form and two photos. Military personnel must bring ID card and leave

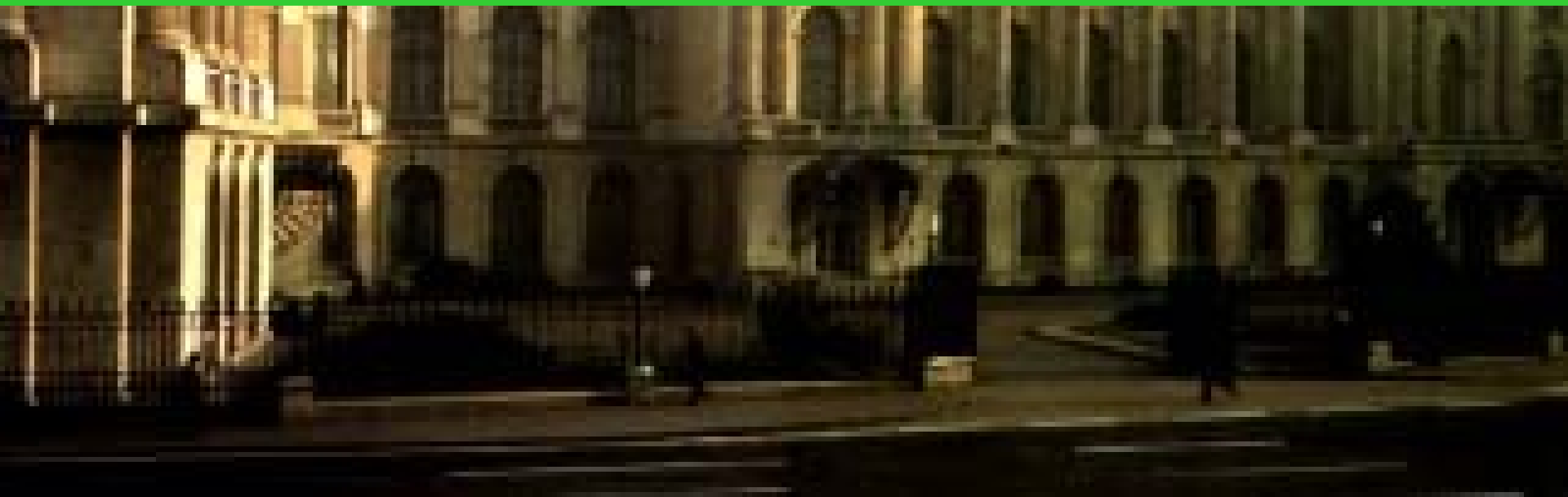
Travelers are subject to normal customs checks. Foreign currency, travelers checks and other valuables must be declared upon entry. Some items are prohibited for export, so tourists need all receipts for items purchased in country.

Clothes, personal use items, and ordinary travel equipment may be imported duty free. Romania's customs authorities encourage the use of an ATA (Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission) Carnet for the temporary admission of professional equipment, commercial samples, and/or goods for exhibitions and fair purposes.

HELPFUL HINTS

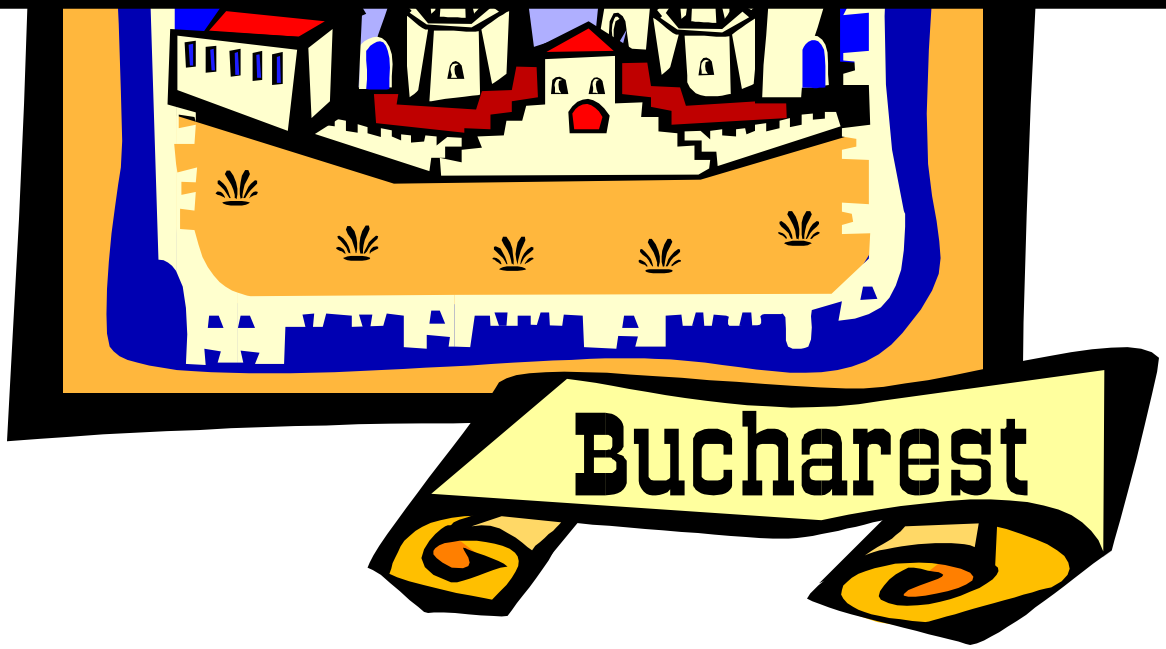
Special restrictions: Cameras may be used freely unless “No Photography” sign is posted. Firearms are prohibited.

Taxis are fairly inexpensive for inner-city transportation. Most older taxis are not equipped with seat belts. Travelers should either call for a taxi in advance or agree upon a price before entering a taxi to avoid being overcharged. Buses and trolley cars are widely available and inexpensive, although they tend to be crowded and susceptible to pickpockets.



MONEY

Currency restrictions: Romania is largely a "cash only" economy; credit cards and travelers checks are of limited utility. Illegal currency exchange is strictly prohibited. Exchange money only at airports, hotels, banks, tourist offices, licensed exchange houses, or the embassy. Travelers are encouraged to bring small U.S. bills ($1 and $5) due to a lack of these bills in country.



HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, industrial pollution and heat injuries (limited).

Availability of medical services: Limited. Basic medical supplies are scarce. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for services.
Medical Insurance: May not apply in Romania. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Fair

Health Precautions: None

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel visiting Romania. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels. Clearance is not needed for visiting other parts of the country.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

Persons who participate in or photograph demonstrations risk arrest. In and around Bucharest, there are many stray dogs. While there have not been any reported problems with rabies, travelers are advised to avoid stray dogs because a number of dog bites have been reported. The water supply in Romania is considered unsafe. Drink only bottled water. Meat and fish are considered safe if "Well Done." Raw vegetables should be avoided. Only fruit that can be peeled should be eaten. Milk and dairy products are questionable due to poor handling and refrigeration processes.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Most crimes in Romania are non-violent and non-confrontational There have been several reports of victims hailing a taxi off the street only to be transported to a secluded spot and physically assaulted and robbed. Robbery, mugging, pickpocketing, and confidence scams perpetrated by black-market money changers are a growing problem in Romania. Organized groups of thieves and pickpockets operate in the train stations and on trains and buses in major cities. A number of thefts and assaults have occurred on overnight trains, including thefts from passengers enclosed compartments.Money exchange schemes targeting travelers have become increasingly common in Romania. Some of these scams have become rather sophisticated, involving individuals posing as plainclothes policemen, who approach the potential

Romania is strict on: firearms and drugs. U.S. citizens are subject to the laws of the country in which they are traveling. Penalties for possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs in Romania are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail

WEATHER

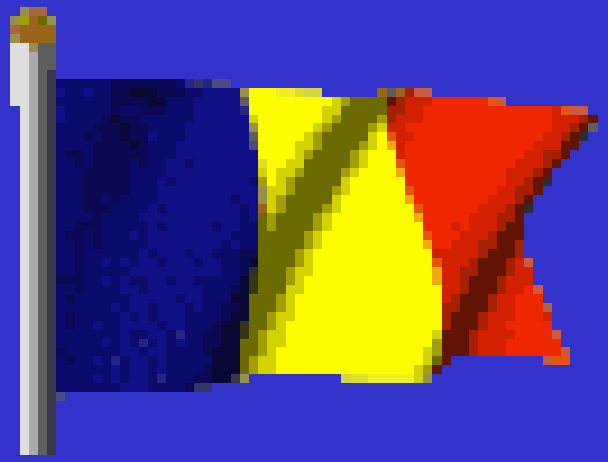
http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: No uniform restrictions. Persons on leave should wear civilian clothing.

Climate of Bucharest and lowlands area is similar to Washington, D.C. Central and highlands areas are similar to Midwest U.S.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



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